

Colorado



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Military and Public Health Collaborate to Manage Resources During an Emergency

In December 2005, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment established the Strategic National Stockpile (SNS) Military and Immunization committee. The committee, since renamed the SNS Local Public Health and Military Planning Committee, serves to bring local and military public health, and any other agencies that would be involved in emergency preparedness and response, together to develop a collaborative partnership for future planning and training efforts. The committee has developed plans and procedures that include criteria for recognizing the need to request stockpile assets for military installations.



Participation

Although there is a partnership between the Colorado National Guard and state and local public health agencies, the collaborative relationship established between local and military public health is unique.

Committee meetings are attended by representatives from the Military Vaccine (MILVAX) Agency, Buckley Air Force Base Public Health, Peterson Air Force Base Public Health, the Air Force Academy Public Health, El Paso County Public Health, Tri-County Health, Fort Carson Public Health, NORAD NorthCOM, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Colorado Department of Public Health Environmental (CDPHE) Immunization Program. Representatives from offices of Emergency Management also attend the meetings.

The SNS Local Public Health and Military Committee was established in 2005 and has worked tirelessly to put plans and mutual aid agreements in place to request, receive and dispense stockpile assets during an emergency. This committee has built valuable collaborative partnerships that addresses and fills a planning and training gap.



**Colorado Department
of Public Health
and Environment**

Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment
4300 Cherry Creek Drive South, Denver, CO 80246-1530
www.cdphe.state.co.us 303.692.2700 800.886.7689

Agreements

By November 2006, the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment had signed memoranda of understanding with 25 Colorado counties, representing boards of county commissioners and/or county sheriffs. The department has 10 signed agreements with warehouse facility owners, five with transportation companies, six with volunteer organizations, two with translation companies and 13 with Colorado hospitals.

Exercise

Several of the significant resources that may be secured through memoranda of understanding have been tested through exercises. For example, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment participated in “Operation Iron Terminus” in July 2006. Operation Iron Terminus was a full-scale Strategic National Stockpile receiving, storing and staging exercise, simulating the state’s response to the release of *Bacillus anthracis* on Colorado interstate highways. The resources included two large warehouses owned by private sector corporations, warehouse equipment such as forklifts, pallet jacks and loading docks, and about 25 staff, many of whom were paid overtime by their companies for assisting with the exercise.



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Additional Information

Jennifer Trainer, SNS Coordinator

303-692-2751 or jennifer.trainer@state.co.us

Barbara J. Beiser, Editor

303-692-2710 or barbara.beiser@state.co.us

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